



RETIREE NEWSLETTER

Retiree Activities Office (RAO), Travis AFB, California

Spring 2015

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Focus of the Retiree Activities Offices

Our customers are retired American service members and their dependents. They have earned our respect, and their retirement benefits, by dedicating their lives to the defense of the United States of America. They have sweated and bled in distant lands, foregone the stability and pleasures of family life, and followed the orders given to them without regard to personal cost. They should take great pride in their accomplishments. In addition, they are entitled to the fulfillment of the contract drawn with our country. At the Retiree Activities Office, we take great pride in supporting the fulfillment of this contract. It is our responsibility to maintain open communication and to ensure they receive superb service and the respect that they so rightfully deserve. Our primary focus shall remain on mission accomplishment, compassionate care of retirees and their families, and the drive to constantly improve and excel.



FROM YOUR RAO DIRECTOR

We've already "sprung forward" and everywhere the signs of Spring and the renewal the season brings are evident. Bare branches are now loaded with bloom and what was brown is green again. This past winter we bid farewell to our colleague, SFC Pamela Rodgers. SFC Rodgers headed east to Virginia due to a family move. We all miss her. SFC Rodgers quickly became a valued associate and she exemplified the embodiment of "Army Strong. Other changes are in the mix with respect to provision of services to retirees and their family members. We will continue to use our best and most effective means of communicating these changes to you and assisting you in making any adjustments that may be necessary. Kudos to Colonel (Dr.) Rawson Wood, 60 MDG Commander, and staff for their efforts in holding two Open Forum gatherings for David Grant

USAF Medical Center beneficiaries and family members. These promise to be a vital tool for information provision and also a means to get to know those who are here to care for us. The RAO will be sure to publicize the next such event; watch our webpage. We are building an RAO Email Distro list to use as another means for getting the word out to our retired brothers and sisters. If you would like to be included, send us an email to RAO-02@us.af.mil At any time you decide you no longer want to participate, just email us and say "unsubscribe." Also, we do not sell any personnel address information or any other personally identifiable information to anyone. Drop by and say hello. We are also always looking for volunteers who desire to join us in "Still Serving." Call me or email and we can talk about it. Thanks!

DAVID C. WIGLEY, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)
Director, Travis AFB Retiree Activities Office



Social Security

Monday, February 2, 2015
For Immediate Release



Social Security Announces New Online Service for Replacement SSA-1099s

Available to Recipients with a my Social Security Account

Social Security, today announced the agency is expanding the online services available at www.socialsecurity.gov. Social Security beneficiaries are now able to quickly and easily obtain a replacement SSA-1099 from the agency's website with a mySocial Security account. Beginning this tax season, any my Social Security account holder who misplaces their original SSA-1099 will be able to request an instant replacement from our menu of online services."

Social Security sends SSA-1099s each January to everyone who receives Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits paid in the previous year and is used for tax purposes. Previously, people who lost their SSA-1099 had to call or visit a Social Security office to get a replacement or request one be mailed to them. With this new online service, people now only need to create a mySocial

Security account, or log into their existing one. Once there, they can view and print their SSA-1099 or request to have a new one mailed to them—all online.

mySocial Security is a secure, online account people use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits. Once the account is created, it is used by people who are working to keep track of their earnings and to get estimates of future benefits. People already receiving benefits manage them with their account—changing their address, starting or changing direct deposit, getting a benefit verification letter, and more. In addition to those existing services, beneficiaries will now be able to immediately get their SSA-1099 replaced without needing to call or visit an office and often wait for a replacement form in the mail.





How do I create a “my Social Security” Online account?

To create an account, you must provide some personal information about yourself and give answers to some questions that only you are likely to know. Next, you create a username and password that you will use to access your online account. This process protects you and keeps your personal Social Security information private.

You must be able to verify some information about yourself and:

- Have a valid E-mail address,
- Have a Social Security number,
- Have a U.S. mailing address, and
- Be at least 18 years of age.

You can create an account only to gain access to your own personal information. You cannot use this online service to access the records of a person:

- With whom you have a business relationship;
- For whom you are a representative payee; or
- For whom you are an appointed representative.



DFAS / myPay updates

It's March, and you may have the same question many have - How do I get a replacement or original W-2 or 1099R? The best and quickest way to access your military pay records and documents is always via the myPay system.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has put together a simple way to request documents be sent to you, at whatever address you designate.

The link to request a replacement W-2 or 1099R right on the front of their webpage. If you can't, for some reason, find it, here's a direct link to their website.

Once you're there, select whether you need a replacement W-2, a replacement 1099R, or a replacement 1099R for former spouses. You'll then be taken to the form to request a replacement.



Financial / Legal News



The 60th Air Mobility Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate offers assistance with powers of attorney (special and general) and notaries on a walk-in basis Monday through Friday from 0900-1400. A valid military retiree or dependent identification card is required to receive services. No appointment is required.

Wills, advance medical directives, and health care powers of attorney are done on an appointment basis. If you need an appointment to complete a will, advanced medical directive, and/or health care power of attorney, please fill-out a form at: <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>. Upon completion, please record the ticket number. Appointments for Wills, advanced medical directives, and health care powers of attorney may be made by contacting (707) 424-3251. Your ticket

number is required in order to make an appointment. If you do not have internet access, please contact our office to have a worksheet mailed to you. Please note that appointments are offered only on Retiree Legal Assistance Days which occur on a rolling 6-8 week basis.

If you need immediate attention, please contact us at (707) 424-3251 and we will be happy to provide you with the contact number for the county bar association lawyer referral service nearest you.

This year, the legal office is not hosting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. To find, a VITA or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program nearest you, call 800-906-9887 or use the VITA Locator Tool online at: <http://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep/>."



Test Your Mental Sharpness



Probability Brain Teaser

You are stuck with pirates on board ship who have threatened you with harm but have elected give you a chance to survive. There are hundred black rocks and hundred red rocks. There are two empty sacks which are labeled heads and tails respectively. You must divide the rocks between the two bags any way you wish. Then a fair coin will be flipped. If its heads, you will have to pick a rock at random from the sack labeled heads and if its tails, you will pick from the sack labeled tails. If you pick up a black rock, you will be freed and if you pick up a red rock, the threat of harm is carried out. How can you distribute the rocks so that your chances of survival are the best?

Answer: Put one black rock in one sack labeled heads and put all the rest in the other one labeled tails. In such manner you will get the best odds.

Explanation: The coin flip is a 50% chance of coming up heads. There is only one black rock in the heads bag; you win. If the coin flip comes up tails you still have a 49.5% change of selecting a black rock from the sack labeled tails where you have placed 99 black rocks and 100 red rocks. Numerically expressed:

$.7525 = (.5 \text{ first chance}) \times (.495 \text{ second chance}) = 1$. About 3 in 4 probability of selecting a black rock

Keeping you informed

Reminder: ID card expiration date nearing?



Total Force Service Center

800-525-0102

The Total Force Service Center can deliver personnel services to the retiree family via telephone any time and from any location. This number is available World-wide using the AT&T USA Direct global dialing codes at:

www.business.att.com/bt/dial_guide.jsp





E-Prescribing – Coming Soon to a Military Pharmacy Near You!

1/8/2015 By: TRICARE.mil Staff

The Military Health System has deployed electronic prescribing in military pharmacies across its system of clinics and hospitals in the United States (and in Guam and Puerto Rico). This capability will allow civilian providers to send prescriptions electronically to military pharmacies, reducing the need for handwritten prescriptions. "E-prescribing is a great new service at military pharmacies," said Dr. George Jones, chief of the Defense Health Agency Pharmacy Operation Division. "E-prescribing makes military pharmacies a more attractive and convenient option for doctors and patients, and it aligns the Military Health System with current best pharmacy practices." E-prescribing is a safe and efficient option already adopted by most civilian pharmacies and providers. It can help reduce prescription errors and has the potential to decrease wait times at military pharmacies. When a prescription comes into a pharmacy electronically, it allows the pharmacist to resolve issues before the patient arrives. Beneficiaries can ask their doctor to look for their local military pharmacies in the e-prescribing database/networks. Military hospitals and clinics will not be able to accept electronic prescriptions for controlled substances. Beneficiaries will still need a hand written prescription for these medications. To learn more about TRICARE's pharmacy benefits, visit the [TRICARE website](http://TRICARE.mil).

YOU CAN LEAVE THE MILITARY -- BUT IT NEVER REALLY LEAVES YOU.

By Ken Burger, article from the Charleston Post and Courier

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, TSgt. "Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago. The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced -- a place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business. Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you. Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served. I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon. I miss the sight of troops marching in



the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review. To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we cross on the flight line. I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit. I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender. Mostly I miss being complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea. Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth. I wish I could express my thoughts as well about something I loved -- and hated sometimes. Face it - we all miss it, whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.

Correction of Military Records

Did your final DD Form 214 not have all your decorations listed? Did your last unit receive an award after you left or retired, and you served in that unit during the period of the award, but you never received the award?

Fear not! There is a way to recover those awards and decorations and amend your DD Form 214 after the fact. It's called Correction of Military Records and the instrument of correction is the DD Form 149.

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0149.pdf>

Go on the Internet and download a copy of the form. Follow the directions that accompany the form, then mail it to the proper authority listed in the directions. Then, sit back and wait for the bureaucratic wheels to turn.

By the way, the DD Form 149 can be used for situations other than awards and decorations. Just about any past oversight can be rectified, provided that you have a credible, persuasive story and sufficient documentation. So, fret no more; take a look here for additional information <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/correct-service-records.htm>



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Attention Golfers!!!

Cypress Lakes Golf Course, located two miles from the North Gate of Travis AFB, is having their 2015 Annual Greens Fee Drive (March-May). Each month they are giving away a prize to one lucky member that becomes an Annual Greens Fee Holder during the drive. The prizes include a set of irons, a "stay and play" package for Yocha Dehe Golf Club (at Cache Creek) and a round of golf at CordeValle golf resort in San Diego. For more information, call 448-7186.

Easter Brunch

Make reservations now for Easter Brunch at the Delta Breeze Club, April 5 from 10am-1:30pm. The extensive buffet includes smoked salmon, roast beef carving station, various salads, omelet station, biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit, dessert and so much for. The price for club members is \$28.99 and non-member price is \$33.99. To make reservations, call 437-3711. You can also make reservations for Mother's Day Brunch on May 10!





TRICARE and the Affordable Care Act

With the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2012, TRICARE beneficiaries may have questions about how it would affect them.

The ACA and TRICARE are very different, governed by two different pieces of legislation so changes in one have no effect on the other. The intent of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, was to provide affordable health insurance options to everyone.

This is the first major difference between TRICARE and the ACA. TRICARE is not health insurance; it is a federal health care entitlement program only for eligible uniformed service members, retirees and their families. The ACA required a set of minimum essential benefits for commercial health insurance. Before the passage of the ACA, TRICARE had already provided most of these benefits such as cost-free screenings, vaccinations and counseling.

One ACA provision not previously addressed by TRICARE was to allow children to remain on their parent's health insurance up to age 26. The 2011 National Defense Authorization Act created the authority to implement the TRICARE Young Adult (TYA) program. TYA is a premium based program that restores TRICARE coverage to adult children up to the age of 26 after they lose their TRICARE coverage due to age.

TRICARE is a benefit established under law as the health care program for the uniformed services, retirees and their families. The ACA did affect change in health care coverage for many Americans, but the legislation did not apply directly to TRICARE. For more information, visit the TRICARE website.

SOURCE: http://www.tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/01_22_15_TRICARE_vs_ACA.aspx





Fairfield / Vacaville Train Station and Peabody Road Improvements

*****Latest Project News*****



MARCH 3, 2015

PEABODY ROAD TO CLOSE JUNE 12, 2015

A half-mile stretch of Peabody Road from Cement Hill Road to Huntington Drive will be closed for 14 months starting on June 12, 2015. The full closure of this segment of Peabody Road is needed to construct an overpass of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.

Peabody Road traffic will be redirected around the construction area using Air Base Parkway, Clay Bank Road, and Cement Hill Road.

Anticipated construction Schedule

1. March 2015 - Start construction, emergency access road under construction
2. June 12, 2015 – Peabody road closed from Vanden Road to Huntington Drive
3. July 2015 – Railroad and overpass construction activities
4. August 14, 2016 – Reopen Peabody Road
5. March 2015 – Project complete

Military Retiree Websites: A Wealth of Information

ARMY

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/>

NAVY

http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/support/retired_activities

AIR FORCE

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/>

MARINES

https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/portal/page/portal/M_RA_HOME/MM/H_SR/e_RET_ACT

COAST GUARD

<http://www.uscg.mil/retiree/>

ALL SERVICES

DFAS: <http://www.dfas.mil>

TriCare: <http://www.tricare.mil>

TriCare Dental: <http://www.trdp.org>

Military Records: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Casualty Assistance <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/casualty>

General Information / News <http://www.militaryonesource.mil>

<http://www.military.com/benefits>





USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS (area code 707)		(unless otherwise stated)
Accounting and Finance		424-8859
Casualty Assistance Representative (CAR)		424-2106
Commissary		437-4004
Customer Service Central (DEERS/ ID Card Appts		424-8483/8468/4075
Legal Office (Wills, trusts and legal advice)		424-3251
Retiree Activities Office (RAO		424-3904
Security Forces (Security Police)		424-2227
Space Available Travel (Space "A")		424-1854
Outdoor Recreation (Tickets and Tours)		424-5659
Veterinary Clinic		424-3010/2985
Long Distance Information (no area code)		411

60 th Medical Group (MDG)	David Grant USAF Medical Center	Travis AFB CA
Information		423-7300
Appointments		423-3000
Appointments (Toll-Free)		(800) 248-3462
Pharmacy Refills		423-7600
TRICARE		(888) 874-9378
		(707) 423-3472
		(707) 423-7921

We Request your Assistance:

Please forward this newsletter to as many friends and family as you want. Encourage your fellow military retirees/survivors to provide us an email address so they can keep in touch with the latest news.

Thanks

